



## New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 9, 2002**

Contact: Francis Rapa

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: [info@njpines.state.nj.us](mailto:info@njpines.state.nj.us)

### **Pinelands Forum to Bring Key New Jersey Leaders Together** *May 14 Panel to address critical issues and opportunities*

NEW LISBON, NJ - An assembly of key government, business and environmental leaders will highlight the third and final panel discussion in support of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission's review of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The panel is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, May 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, at the Pinelands Commission's Richard J. Sullivan Center in New Lisbon. The forum, titled "Critical Issues and Opportunities," will address broader, long-term policy perspectives of the Pinelands CMP.

Two former Chairmen of the Pinelands Commission will serve as panelists. Richard Sullivan served as Commission Chairman from 1988 to 1998. Sullivan also served as the first Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) from 1970 to 1974. Daniel Kelleher, Senior Vice President of NJ American Water Works Service Company, Inc., served on the Pinelands Commission from 1995 to 2000, including nearly two years as Chairman.

Representing the Governor's Office of Policy will be Martin Bierbaum, Deputy Policy Director of the Office. Bierbaum, who has served in key positions in the Departments of Environmental Protection and Community Affairs and the Office of State Planning, is responsible for coordination of the Governor's smart growth initiative among the Executive Office and Cabinet-level departments.

Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is scheduled to deliver the opening remarks at the panel discussion. Commissioner Campbell previously served as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, DEP Deputy Commissioner Karen Kominsky will participate in the panel discussion. In addition to overseeing all DEP programs, Kominsky is responsible for integration of environmental protection and community development at DEP to advance Governor McGreevey's smart growth initiative.

Also participating will be Pemberton Township Mayor Thalia C. Kay, Chair of the Pinelands Municipal Council, as well as Buena Vista Township Mayor Chuck Chiarello, who served as Chair for six years. These two local leaders will bring an important municipal perspective to the panel.

## **May 14 Panel Discussion**

### **Page 2**

“This panel will bring some unique insight to the CMP review process,” explained Pinelands Commission Executive Director Annette Barbaccia. “It will give us both an important historic perspective and a view of current and future challenges. We’ll be looking at how far the Plan has come, how well we have stayed the course in the face of many changing conditions, and what our vision will be for the future.”

About 15 representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organizations will participate on the panel. At this time, representatives of the following organizations are scheduled to participate:

- NJ Governor’s Office of Policy;
- Department of Environmental Protection;
- New Jersey Conservation Foundation;
- Pinelands Preservation Alliance;
- The Nature Conservancy;
- American Littoral Society;
- New Jersey Farm Bureau;
- United States Geological Survey;
- Cumberland County Department of Planning and Development;
- Pinelands Municipal Council;
- Pemberton Township;
- Buena Vista Township;
- National Association of Industrial and Office Properties;
- NJ American Water Works Service Company; and
- Bay Pointe-Schoor DePalma (environmental/professional planners).

The panel discussion will also include a public comment portion, where members of the public will have the opportunity to raise questions and comments to the panelists. Comments from the three panel discussions, including public comments, will be taken under consideration as part the Third Review on Plan Implementation. The review will identify potential CMP amendments or other actions to improve Pinelands protection and resource management programs.

The Richard J. Sullivan Center is located at 15-C Springfield Road, New Lisbon, NJ.

###